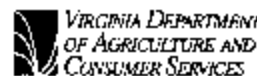




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# 1999 Commercial Grape Report Virginia



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Released: March 15, 2000

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## VIRGINIA'S GRAPE PRODUCTION UP 43 PERCENT

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Virginia's grape producers harvested 4,563.5 tons of commercial grapes in 1999, up 43 percent from the 3,185.1 tons produced in 1998 and 54 percent above 1997. This production represents the highest total since this data series was started back in 1995. Vineyard acreage totaled 1,963.8, a 22 percent increase from a year ago. Non-bearing acres again accounted for the largest increase due to several new vineyards entering into the market. Bearing acres totaled 1,434.3, up 11 percent from 1998. This increase is due to the normal maturation of younger vines and new vineyards coming into production. The Chardonnay variety made up 39 percent of Virginia's total production of all the Vinifera varieties harvested in 1999. Also, Virginia's most popular variety accounted for 37 percent of all the Vinifera variety bearing acreage and nearly 29 percent of the total bearing acres statewide.

Weather conditions varied throughout the growing season, with extended drought during the summer followed by tropical rains in September. Pre-harvest conditions were excellent. Per acre yields were up from 1998 which was expected as newer vineyards mature. However, some producers continue to fight powdery mildew infestation along with other fungous diseases in some localities. A few vineyards were abandoned again this year.



### VARIETIES REPORTED

#### VINIFERA

Chardonnay  
Cabernet Sauvignon  
Cabernet Franc  
Gewurztraminer  
Merlot  
Pinot Noir  
Sauvignon Blanc  
White Riesling  
Other White  
Other Red

#### HYBRID

Seyval  
Vidal Blanc  
Chambourcin  
Other White Hybrid  
Other Red Hybrid

#### AMERICAN

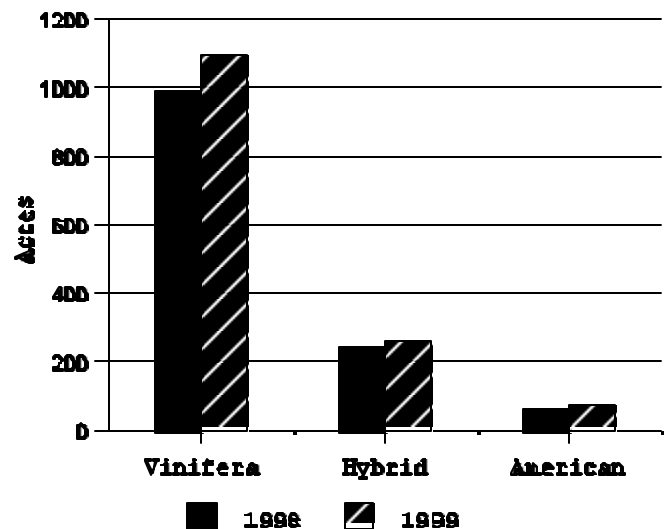
Concord  
Seedless Table (all)  
Other Red/Black  
Other White

# **GRAPES: VIRGINIA PRODUCTION AND ACREAGE BY VARIETY, 1998 AND 1999**

Variety	Tons Produced		Bearing Acres		Non-bearing Acres	
	1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999
<b>VINIFERA</b>						
Chardonnay	821.7	1,402.4	388.1	409.7	63.8	135.3
Cabernet Sauvignon	408.1	551.6	167.5	201.7	23.3	40.4
Cabernet Franc	253.7	307.0	73.5	93.2	36.1	60.4
Gewurztraminer	31.7	61.6	14.0	13.5	2.2	3.8
Merlot	162.0	266.8	76.2	77.1	12.2	36.6
Pinot Noir	53.3	100.6	23.9	26.2	7.4	2.8
Sauvignon Blanc	36.5	50.8	17.3	17.7	1.7	1.4
White Riesling	307.6	418.9	114.2	120.9	7.0	4.7
Other White Vinifera	204.6	240.0	62.1	84.9	42.6	56.2
Other Red Vinifera	189.1	212.9	51.2	50.5	58.2	77.2
<b>HYBRID</b>						
Seyval	163.6	188.2	79.4	78.8	1.2	2.3
Vidal Blanc	256.3	383.3	82.0	106.0	29.2	44.5
Chambourcin	67.8	67.2	32.6	32.9	9.4	9.0
Other White Hybrid	30.2	41.0	23.7	30.3	8.2	9.0
Other Red Hybrid	33.1	17.7	23.7	15.1	5.8	5.3
<b>AMERICAN</b>						
Concord	98.1	151.5	33.6	36.7	*	1.4
Seedless Table (all)	6.9	6.8	4.4	5.0	1.2	0.6
Other Red/Black American	34.0	48.8	10.8	18.8	5.7	31.4
Other White American	26.8	46.4	12.5	15.3	*	7.2
<b>STATE TOTAL</b>	<b>3,185.1</b>	<b>4,563.5</b>	<b>1,290.7</b>	<b>1,434.3</b>	<b>317.6</b>	<b>529.5</b>

\* Some varieties not published to avoid disclosing individual operations. Production and acreage are included in state totals.

**1999 TOTAL PRODUCTION  
BEARING ACRES  
By Variety  
By Variety**



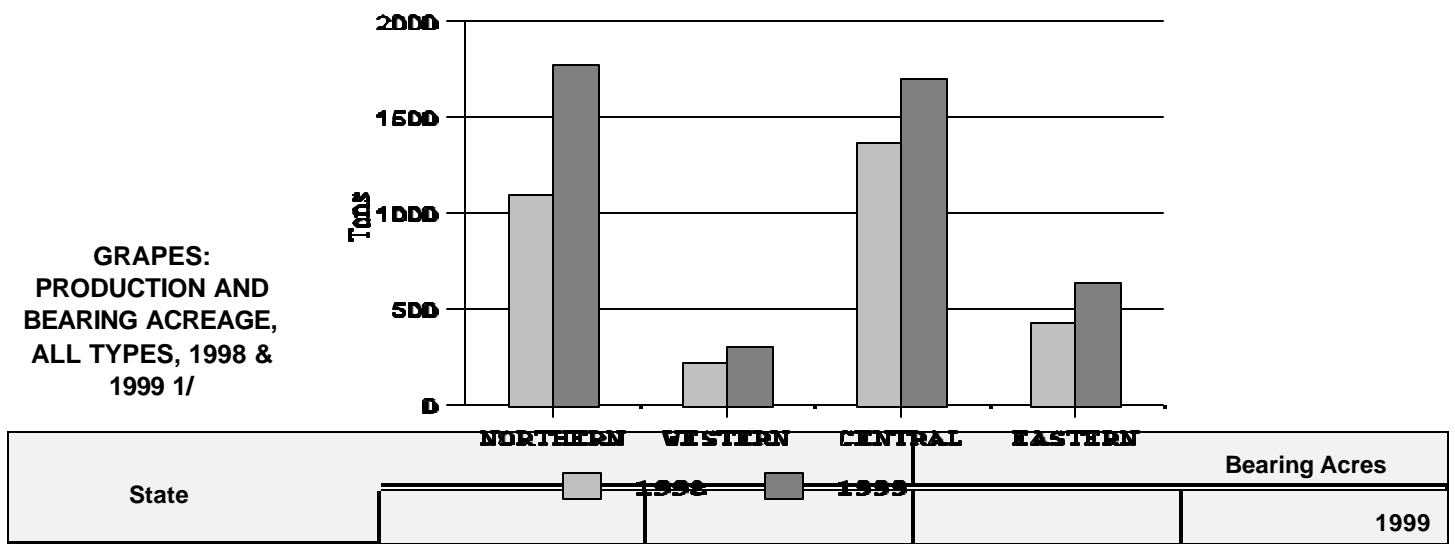
**GRAPES: VIRGINIA DISTRICT AND COUNTY TOTALS, 1998 AND 1999**

District and County	Tons Produced		Bearing Acres		Non-bearing Acres	
	1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999
<b>NORTHERN</b>						
Culpeper	49.4	96.1	23.2	23.1	2.3	19.5
Fauquier	295.8	336.1	200.7	169.4	10.3	39.8
Loudoun	211.8	432.1	133.1	141.5	37.7	57.0
Madison	283.2	502.5	60.2	96.3	12.4	10.3
Page	11.7	16.5	8.0	8.0	*	*
Rappahannock	77.4	114.1	42.8	47.7	6.8	22.3
		61.5	14.5	19.5	*	*
		94.8	28.0	39.7	15.9	31.1
		54.6	19.0	19.0	*	*
		62.3	21.5	29.2	8.1	6.6
<b>Vinifera</b> <b>79%</b>						
<b>American</b> <b>6%</b>						
<b>Hybrid</b> <b>15%</b>						
Rockingham	49.5					
Shenandoah	50.9					
Warren	34.4					
Other Counties	25.9					

District and County	Tons Produced		Bearing Acres		Non-bearing Acres	
	1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999
<b>District Total</b>	<b>1,090.0</b>	<b>1,770.6</b>	<b>551.0</b>	<b>593.4</b>	<b>93.5</b>	<b>186.6</b>
<b>WESTERN</b>						
<b>District Total</b>	<b>215.6</b>	<b>295.8</b>	<b>62.5</b>	<b>82.2</b>	<b>20.1</b>	<b>25.8</b>
<b>CENTRAL</b>						
Albemarle	449.2	528.5	156.1	185.0	23.2	86.8
Bedford	25.2	37.0	11.9	16.5	5.3	5.5
Greene	56.0	57.9	18.9	23.5	12.5	7.9
Nelson	50.1	102.3	31.4	43.8	20.2	19.3
Orange	694.6	860.1	170.0	159.1	56.3	55.7
Prince Edward	11.7	7.9	10.2	6.0	*	*
Other Counties	84.7	107.7	48.6	60.8	31.7	44.5
<b>District Total</b>	<b>1,371.5</b>	<b>1,701.4</b>	<b>447.1</b>	<b>494.7</b>	<b>149.2</b>	<b>219.7</b>
<b>EASTERN</b>						
King George	58.7	73.5	24.5	25.6	7.3	3.4
Westmoreland	178.4	197.1	49.4	52.4	16.2	31.0
Other Counties	193.2	359.2	101.8	121.0	22.9	29.0
<b>District Total</b>	<b>430.3</b>	<b>629.8</b>	<b>175.7</b>	<b>199.0</b>	<b>46.4</b>	<b>63.4</b>
<b>Other District Total</b>	<b>77.7</b>	<b>165.9</b>	<b>54.4</b>	<b>65.0</b>	<b>8.4</b>	<b>34.0</b>
<b>STATE TOTAL</b>	<b>3,185.1</b>	<b>4,563.5</b>	<b>1,290.7</b>	<b>1,434.3</b>	<b>317.6</b>	<b>529.5</b>

\* Some county totals are not published to avoid disclosure of individual operations. Production and acreage are included in district and state totals.

### PRODUCTION By Region



California	5,290,000	5,473,000	743,000	770,000
Washington	222,000	265,000	39,000	39,000
New York	128,000	205,000	31,500	31,500
Pennsylvania	54,000	88,000	12,800	12,800
Michigan	70,400	75,000	12,300	11,700
Oregon	14,700	17,900	7,100	7,400
Arizona	23,000	21,000	4,300	4,100
Ohio	6,100	11,000	2,000	2,000
Arkansas	4,550	4,900	1,300	1,400
Virginia 2/	3,200	4,600	1,300	1,400
Georgia	3,200	3,300	1,400	1,200
Missouri	2,200	2,800	750	800
North Carolina	1,500	1,900	470	460
South Carolina	300	630	250	350

1/ Bearing acreage and production are final for 1998, figures may be revised. Bearing acreage and production for 1999 are preliminary.

2/ Virginia production and bearing acres rounded to the nearest 100.

**About the Survey:** The information presented in this report was gathered through a census of all known commercial grape producers in Virginia. To be considered a commercial producer, an operator must grow one acre or more of grapes. Data were collected during the months of November 1999 through January 2000 by mail and telephone interview. Information obtained during the course of this survey is completely confidential by law; for this reason, some county, regional, and variety breakdowns could not be published to avoid disclosure of individual vineyards.

Appreciation is extended to Dr. Tony K. Wolf, Viticulture Extension Specialist, for lending his considerable knowledge and expertise, and to the Wine Marketing Program of the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. Special thanks to all producers who took time to participate in this survey.